

CLAIMS

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1. A method of operating a communications systems comprising:
 - (a) exchanging between communication terminals call control capability data, which call control capability data identifies for each respective terminal a selected one or more of a plurality of different call control protocols and different network addresses and;
 - (b) setting up a call between the said communications terminals using call control protocols or network addresses identified in the said call control capability data.
 2. A method according to claim 1, in which the step of exchanging call control capability data is carried out prior to initiating call set-up.
 3. A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which a first terminal initiates the exchange of call control capability data by transmitting the call control capability data for the first terminal to a second terminal and the second terminal returns an acknowledgement to the request, which acknowledgement includes call control capability data for the second terminal.
 4. A method according to ^{Claim 1} ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, including monitoring continuously at a communications terminal a communications port and carrying out the exchange of call control capability data whenever a request is received at the said port.
 5. A method according to claim 4, in which the monitoring of the communications port continues after a call has been set up.
 6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, including communicating as part of the said call control capability data a pointer to a source of further data identifying capabilities not provided for directly in the call control capability exchange protocol.

7. A method according to claim 6, in which the pointer is a uniform resource locator (URL).

8. A communications terminal including:

5 (a) means for exchanging call control capability data with other communications terminals, which call control capability data identifies for a respective terminal a selected one or more of a plurality of different call control protocols and different network addresses; and

10 (b) means for setting up a call between the said communications terminal and the other communications terminal using a call control protocol or network address type identified in the call control capability data received from the said other communications terminal.

15 9. A communications network including a communication terminal according to claim 8.

20 10. A communications network comprising a plurality of communication terminals, in which different ones of the plurality of communications terminals support different respective call control protocols, and in which each of the communications terminals includes:

(a) means for exchanging call control capability data with other communications terminals, which call control capability data identifies for a respective terminal a selected one or more of the plurality of different call control protocols and different network addresses; and

25 (b) means for setting up a call between the said communications terminal and the other communications terminal using a call control protocol or network address type identified in the call control capability data received from the said other communications terminal.

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